

a plurality of cable pathway-defining elements;
each one of said plurality terminating at least
one attachment end;

a coupling for joining at least a first one of
said attachment ends to at least a second one of said attachment
ends, said coupling including aligning means for aligning the
first and second ones in a predetermined alignment, said coupling
further including clamp means for automatically clamping an
attachment end when in said predetermined alignment; and

CR a horizontal-to-vertical transition fitting having
walls including a bottom wall defining a cable pathway extending
from a vertical pathway portion having an open vertical access
(112) to a generally perpendicular horizontal pathway portion
having an open horizontal access (108) on a side of said bottom
wall opposite said vertical access;

[at least one of said including] a slot (116)
formed [therethrough] through a sidewall 103 of said fitting for
passing a fiber exterior of said fitting from said horizontal
pathway to said vertical pathway, said slot extend completely
from said vertical access to said horizontal access.

REMARKS

Applicant proposes the above amendments for the purpose
of placing this application in condition for allowance. This
submission is made pursuant to Rule 116.

With respect to the final Office Action of June 23, 1992, Applicant notes that Box II,2 was checked, indicating that claim 1-4 have been cancelled. Applicant believes this is incorrect. Instead, claims 2-4 have been cancelled.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant proposes amending the claim to more clearly indicate that the coupling of the present invention includes both inner and outer walls 48,52, as best shown in Fig. 6. In Fig. 6, the outer walls include inner and outer sidewalls and inner and outer bottom walls. The walls are spaced apart to define pockets sized to receive the walls of the pathway elements. The resilient springs are disposed in the pockets to urge the pathway elements against the inner walls. As a result, a continuous smooth-walled surface is provided between the transition elements.

With respect to EP 315,023A (Swifts), no such coupling is shown or suggested. With respect to French 1,479,341 (Baut), the springed clip mechanism (for example, shown best in Figs. 3-8) does not include inner and outer walls defining pockets, with the spring received within the pocket. Instead, the spring 20 is completely exposed to the interior. As a result, if a clip mechanism such as Baut were to be combined with the trough of Swifts, a plurality of springs would be exposed within the pathway at each coupling location. When routing fiber-optic cable or the like through such a pathway, the cable sheathing could catch and tear on the clip mechanisms.

Applicant respectfully submits that the structure of claim 1 (twice amended) distinguishes both structurally and functionally from the combination of the prior art. Structurally, claim 1 (twice amended) calls for a coupling having inner and outer walls defining a pocket which receives the walls of the cable pathway-defining elements and urges the pathway-defining elements against the wall and with the spring carried completely within the pocket defined between the first and second opposing walls. Further, claim 1 (twice amended) recites that the inner walls cooperate with the element walls to define a generally continuous closed wall between the pathway-defining elements. Such structure is not shown in either of the cited references or any combination. Further, such structure provides benefits not found in the cited references.

With respect to claim 5, Applicant has amended the claim to correct the dependency.

With respect to claim 8, Applicant has amended the claim to add reference numerals as well as to provide further clarifying structure.

Applicant notes that claim 8 was rejected with reference to Figure 8 of Swifts. Applicant respectfully submits that Figure 8 of Swifts does not show a horizontal to vertical fitting. Instead, any pathway in Figure 8 is completely in one direction. Swifts does show horizontal to vertical members (see Figs. 14-17 and 18-20). None of these have slots or other means to provide ready transition from the back side of the transition

member to the top side of the transition member. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the structure of claim 8 (twice amended) is not shown or suggested by any of the cited references.

Applicant respectfully submits that upon entry of the proposed amendment, the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration, entry of the proposed amendments, and notice of allowance are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Henneberger


By his Attorneys,

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Date

7/6/92

By


Timothy R. Conrad
Reg. No. 30,164



S/N 07/678,131

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Roy Henneberger Examiner: Chin Sue, A.
Serial # : 07/678,131 Group Art Unit: 355
Filed : April 1, 1991 Docket: 2316.304-US-01
Title : OPTIC CABLE MANAGEMENT

July 6, 1992

PROPOSED AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box AF

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action of June 23, 1992, Applicant proposes amending this application as follows for the purpose of placing this application in condition for allowance:

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Twice Amended). A cable routing system comprising:
a plurality of cable pathway-defining elements;
each one of said plurality terminating at least one attachment end and each of said elements including walls for defining a cable pathway;
a coupling for joining at least a first one of said attachment ends to at least a second one of said attachment ends, said coupling including wall means for defining a coupling pathway and aligning means for aligning the first and second ones

in a predetermined alignment with said cable pathway aligned with said coupling pathway, said wall means including at least first and second sidewalls, said coupling further including clamp means for automatically clamping an attachment end when in said predetermined alignment;

said alignment means including first and second outer walls and first and second inner walls spaced from said first and second outer walls, respectively, by a distance to define first and second pockets, respectively, sized to receive [walls] said first and second sidewalls, respectively, of said elements, said inner and outer walls disposed for said elements to be in said predetermined alignment when said sidewalls [element walls] are disposed between said outer and inner walls of said coupling; and

said clamp means includes first and second resiliently biased spring means carried on said coupling and disposed within said first and second pockets, respectively, and directed to urge an element wall against a wall of said coupling upon insertion of said element wall between said outer and inner walls, said first and second inner walls cooperating with said element wall to define a generally continuous closed wall between said pathway-defining elements.

In claim 5 (amended), first line thereof, cancel "4" and insert ---1---;

8 (Twice Amended) A cable routing system comprising:

a plurality of cable pathway-defining elements;
each one of said plurality terminating at least
one attachment end;

a coupling for joining at least a first one of
said attachment ends to at least a second one of said attachment
ends, said coupling including aligning means for aligning the
first and second ones in a predetermined alignment, said coupling
further including clamp means for automatically clamping an
attachment end when in said predetermined alignment; and

a horizontal-to-vertical transition fitting having
walls including a bottom wall defining a cable pathway extending
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pathway to said vertical pathway, said slot extend completely
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Roy Henneberger

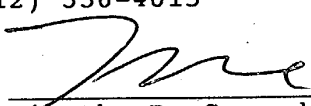
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